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LOCAL

W. R. Sirrine is reported quite at this writing.

G. W. Longwell Sr. is recovering from a recent illness.

Mrs. Jennie Rowley of Lawrence was a Paw Paw visitor last Thursday.

Miss Pearl Stevens of Albion visited Paw Paw friends the first of the week.

Carl Buskirk who has been seriously ill is reported on the road to recovery.

M. C. Wheaton and daughter, Miss Ethel were Kalamazoo visitors last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Prater Jr. were called here from Cadillac by the death of his father.

Fred Mau was home from Camp Custer to spend the week end with Paw Paw friends.

Mrs. Vernon C. Decker has gone to Chicago for the holidays. Vernon will join her in time for Christmas.

Bill Killefer was home from Camp Custer for the week end. Bill has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Mrs. Julia Whitney has gone to join her daughter Mrs. Will Payne for a trip to Florida where they will spend the winter.

Lieutenant Fred Hewson of Fort Snelling, Minnesota has been the guest of his mother, Mrs. Allie V. Hewson this week.

Leonard Morton was called here on Sunday by the illness of his mother. She was later taken to a Kalamazoo hospital for treatment.

Dr. F. A. Racette announces that his office will be closed during the holidays. He goes to Muskegon to visit relatives and friends.

Mrs. Mary Dean, widow of the late Luther Dean, former residents of Paw Paw, died at her home near South Haven, Monday morning, December 9th, at the age of eighty-eight years.

A ten pound baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Howe on Thursday morning. Their home is in Panama, but Mrs. Howe has been at the home of her father here, Willis App for the past four months.

The regular Grange meeting is scheduled for Saturday of this week, at Memorial Hall. There will be a pot luck dinner at noon, and election of officers and other important business in the afternoon.

Following are the newly elected officers of the W. R. C. President, Mary V. Taylor; S. V., Lucena Hulbert; J. V., Eleanor Weatherwax; Treasurer, Mary McCon; Chaplain, Cordelia Libbe; Con., Eva M. Harris; Guard, Martha Wilson.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Sawtell of Chicago, a daughter on December third. The little Miss has been christened, "Winnifred Jeanne". Mrs. Sawtell will be remembered as Miss Mildred Shields, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blake of Lawton.

Following are the officers of Paw Paw Lodge No. 25 F. and A. M. elected at the regular annual meeting last Tuesday night. Leon L. Douglas, W. M.; W. R. Sellick, S. W.; Wm. C. Mosier, J. W.; E. F. Parks, Treas.; Wm. Killefer, Sec.; Carl Buskirk, S. D.; Roy L. Tuttle, J. D.; C. W. Reynolds, Tyler. The newly elected officers will be installed on Friday evening, December 27th.

All Michigan mourns the death of Colonel Joe Westledge of Kalamazoo. He had led his men of the 32nd Division through all of the hard fighting and had received honorable mention on many occasions. His comrades said he bore a "Charmed Life" as he was always in the thickest of the fray, and always came out untouched. His death in a hospital in France was caused by heart trouble.

Sheriff Gladstone Beattie, and County Clerk, Royal E. Decker are making arrangements to continue their Pickle business on an extensive scale. They have owned a factory at Covert for the past two years, and now in company with L. A. Watson of Covert have purchased the Van Buren county interests of the C. F. Claussen & Sons of Chicago. They will operate factories at Covert, South Haven, Toquon and Decatur. Sheriff Beattie and Batt Donovan have bought the stations at Grand Junction and Lawrence, and these factories will probably be operated in connection with the Beattie-Decker-Watson stations. These boys are all hustlers, and are going after the pickle business in a manner which means success.

James Maxwell spent Sunday last in Chicago.

Russ Gillespie of Kalamazoo was home to spend Sunday last.

E. D. Sirrine has a clerical position at the Jackson State Prison.

Dr. J. C. Maxwell and wife were Chicago visitors the first part of this week.

Mrs. Delia Engel was in South Haven and Kalamazoo on business this week.

The schools of Mattawan are closed on account of the epidemic in that community.

Mrs. Willard Warner who has been very ill with the Influenza is reported on the gain.

Harry Tellam Jr. left on Monday of this week for Reading, Pa., where he will spend the winter.

Matthew and David Dillon were in Decatur on Wednesday to attend the funeral of James Creagen.

M. H. Young and brother Dr. G. F. Young of South Haven were in Lansing on business last Tuesday.

Mrs. Ed DeHaven has suffered a relapse from the Influenza and Mrs. E. H. Reynolds is caring for her.

School was resumed at the Steeple school on Monday after a three weeks vacation on account of the Influenza.

Mrs. James McLeod has gone to Ohio where she will spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Herbert Welch and family.

Ed Quartermas has been acting in the capacity of substitute mail carrier this week during the sickness of the regular carrier.

Phillip Smith, one of the pioneers of this county, died at the home of his son, Hiram Smith of Kalamazoo last week, aged eighty-four years.

Mrs. Levi Lyle of Decatur, and grand daughter, Miss Virginia Patton of Kalamazoo, were guests of Mrs. Roy Mosier east of town, last week.

The next regular meeting of the W. R. C. will be on Saturday, December 28th. All members are expected to be present. The inspector will be there on that day to inspect the work of the corps.

Mrs. Mary Shiffman has received a second message from the War Department advising her that her son George Strong is not dead as previously announced, but is in a base hospital in France seriously wounded.

Mrs. Frank Holcomb was taken to Fairmount Hospital in Kalamazoo the first of the week for treatment for tuberculosis. During her absence, their little son is being cared for at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Knight.

Will Monroe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Monroe of Lawrence, died last Sunday. He leaves a wife, and four small children. Mrs. Monroe is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shepard of Paw Paw. The funeral was held at South Haven on Wednesday.

C. W. Reynolds leaves this week to visit friends in Cass County. From there he will go to Hammond, Indiana to visit his daughter Miss Ione, and together they will go to Chicago to spend Christmas with Lee Reynolds and family. Wint will probably remain there until after the first of January.

Robert Moseley, Grand Master of the Second Vail, Dr. Howson, Dr. O. E. Lanphear and Mr. Olin, all of Kalamazoo and Dr. G. F. Young of South Haven were guests of Paw Paw Chapter No. 34 for the Installation of Officers last Monday evening. The newly elected officers were installed by Mr. Moseley.

The health conditions of the community continue to improve. There are a number of cases of Influenza yet, some of a serious nature, but the great majority are convalescent, many of them having returned to their work. No new cases are reported, and it is now confidently believed that the end of the epidemic is in sight.

The Buffalo Express of December 15th, contains a splendid cut of the late Edgar W. Cummings, and the following lines:—"Edgar W. Cummings, who died recently at the age of eighty-four years, was with the Lehigh Coal Company for upwards of thirty years. He was one of the oldest Masons in the country, having been made one at Paw Paw, Michigan in 1857. At the time of his death he was a member of Zenobia Commandery at Palmyra, where he was buried with Masonic Honors. Deceased was a brother of Bruce and Dell Cummings of this place."

The Last Privilege



Opportunity to serve the great cause is fast slipping away.

We who have stayed at home while our sons and brothers faced the ugly menace have just one more chance.

When we think of the fiery ordeals of our Michigan boys in France, shall we be satisfied with our own records?

When in the cold light of the future we contemplate our part in the great struggle, will we be happy without having fully met our obligations to the Red Cross.

Who is there in Michigan whose dollar means more than comradeship with this Goddess of all the Mercies?

Gratitude for her blessed world-embracing services should move us all to joyously respond to the summons.

Accept this last privilege to serve, and wear the Cross of Honor of the Christmas Roll Call—the 1919 Button.

Volunteer your dollar for membership Saturday, December 21st, at the Post Office. Be on the Honor Roll.

Ted Pepper has been mustered out of the service and reached home on Wednesday. Ted was in an Officers Training camp.

The Real Estate office of Decker & Decker is being re-decorated and fixed up a bit. Royal will be on the job with Verne after January first.

Dell Maguire has been mustered out of the service and is at home. He didn't get as far as the Front, but had some wonderful experiences. The Aero squadron of which he was a member was in England when the war closed.

A letter from Lieutenant Maurice Cole to local relatives states that he has practically recovered from his recent wounds and is able to leave the hospital. He is on his way to join his company in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Lewis Kankile was arraigned before Judge Rowland on Tuesday charged with stealing an automobile. He waived examination and was bound over to the Circuit Court for trial. Kankile is the Italian charged with stealing the Doyle automobile one year ago last October. Sheriff Beattie has been trailing the man during all these months, and finally located him in Chicago last week. It was necessary to get Requisition papers to induce the accused man to accompany the sheriff to Paw Paw.

Should any one ask what Red Cross Membership will mean this year, tell them the work has only just begun. The war is over it is true, and the fever of battle has abated. But time and care are needed to heal the scars four years have left. Broken men, broken hearts, broken spirits must be mended. The work is not yet over. Our men fought to the end. They still crowd hospitals, wounded and suffering. They need care, and many of our men will remain abroad for months. For them it will be a home-sick waiting. They must be cheered during the dreary days. We must not fail them now. Volunteer your dollar for membership at the Post Office on Saturday of this week.

Henry Banks, probably the oldest man in Michigan, passed away at the home of an aged daughter in Bangor township, last Thursday. He was a colored man, an ex-slave, who is remembered by many as an aged man some fifty years ago. He remembered distinctly as having been old enough to drive a mule team in building the fortifications at New Orleans during the war of 1812. Many incidents of his early life have been verified, so there seems to be little question but that he was somewhere between 126 and 130 years of age at the time of his death. His memory was quite clear, and he would recall many incidents of the boyhood days of those now reaching the period in life called old age. The funeral was held on Friday. Rev. Orva Lee of Paw Paw officiated.

Le Grand Hammond, died at his home near Decatur last Saturday of Pneumonia, following a brief illness from Influenza. He was a prominent citizen of his community, and leaves a wife and one son, besides many other relatives and friends. He was twenty-seven years of age, and a nephew of Mrs. Clara Rennie of this place.

Sheriff elect, Andrew Lang announces his official family as follows: Dwight Barker of Lawton, Undersheriff; Harry Cross of Paw Paw, Deputy. Both are well and favorably known throughout the county. Dwight Barker was formerly a business man of this village, and Harry Cross was County Clerk for four years. The appointments should meet the approval of the citizens of the county. Mr. Barker has moved here from Lawton and will be ready to assume his duties on January 1st.

Be on the Honor Roll. Come to the Post Office unsolicited Saturday December 21st, and pay your dollar for Red Cross Membership. Let us make this a Red Cross Christmas. Let us see to it that every member of every family joins. Do you remember the Halifax disaster? The San Francisco Earthquake? And of course you know what the Red Cross is doing in our present Influenza epidemic. She is warming thousands, feeding thousands from her store, and the work is never ending. Let us be sure to do our part to help it along.

The following communication was written by Eli Strong of Paw Paw. Past Commander, Department Michigan G. A. R. and published in a recent issue of the Kalamazoo Gazette, under the heading, "Veterans Not Tramps." The letter is in reply to a communication from Evangeline Booth, the great Salvation Army Leader, wherein she made statements complimentary to say the least, of the condition of Union Soldiers at the close of the Civil War. Past Commander Strong resents the allegations of the distinguished lady, as should every other loyal American citizen.

In a recent issue of your paper was an article by Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army to which I wish to make protest. She says there can be no question that at the close of the War of the Rebellion, thousands of the men who had participated became so diverted in their purpose through the years that followed, as to contribute as much suffering and misery, heartaches and disappointment as the war itself had caused.

She also declares that it has been said that the Civil War produced a million tramps over night. I feel that all my comrades of that contest who have read this article, are waiting for someone to answer this charge made by Eva Booth—a charge which is wholly false in every particular.

This Salvation Army head must have a lurid imagination and she must have allowed it free rein.

I came home from that war with the army after having served three strenuous years. I have lived through those after years of which she says, "there can be no question but that the diverted purpose of the ex-soldiers caused more misery and suffering than was caused by the war itself." I saw none of this, neither did I hear of any such consequences. My recollections of those years are that it was a period of joy and happiness. All the people were glad that their soldier relatives and friends were again at home, that the American union had been saved and that government by the people had not perished from the earth.

The returning soldiers were absorbed in and among the people so easily and so quietly, as to cause scarcely a ripple on the surface; the soldier of spring-time was a private citizen by fall.

Then again, if the purpose of these soldiers became so diverted through their army experience as to cause all the misery she mentions, there must have been some crime committed by the ex-soldiers whose purpose had been so perverted.

I saw, neither did I hear, of any of this out of the ordinary, and court records will show a smaller per cent of crimes charged against soldiers than against civilians. The reason for this I attribute to the discipline the soldier had received, he respecting law and order to a greater extent than before, and being a better citizen.

Tramps! A million of them! That is about the number of soldiers mustered out at the close of the war. I never have heard this charge before and I know it is not true. It is inconceivable and unbelievable that the men composing the grand armies that carried the flag through victory and defeat, but in final triumph, from the Ohio to the Gulf and from Washington to Appomattox, that saved the nation—the men who cemented with their blood the loosely held confederation of states into a compact nation and placed it on the safe, sure road to its present high position—should become tramps. They did not. I brand the assertion absolutely false.

We have a national and a state organization—the Grand Army of the Republic—with posts in every city and town in the country where there are ex-soldiers. The posts have a knowledge of all of their jurisdiction, whether members of their post or not. We have kept in close relationship with our comrades. Then, again, nearly every regiment has an ex-war organization which meets yearly. They have complete records of membership which included originally nearly, and in most cases, all the survivors of their units. We know where all these men are and all about them.

And we know that the dead were not tramps, and that the living are not, and we know that Eva Booth's charge is false, cruelly false. It makes me white under the collar to have the good name of my comrades maligned in such a manner. Eva Booth seems worked up with what she thinks is a great problem in the demobilization of our present army. I would say to all: Have no fears. These men are not out of joint with home affairs; they are soldiers for the time being only, for a specific purpose, and they will come home with their minds broadened, their intelligence increased, their manhood developed. They are not to turn tramps or lawbreakers. They will not cause misery and suffering, but be better citizens than ever.

GEORGE E. PRATER

George E. Prater was born January 18th, 1840, in the village of Paw Paw on the north side and near the west end of what is now Elm street, in what was afterward known as the Isom house adjoining the Willard home, and died at his home in the village of Paw Paw on the 14th, day of December 1918.

He is the last one of the family of our early pioneers. William and Sophia Salt Prater who came to Paw Paw from Utica N. Y. in 1833 to join those who had settled only a short time before; in fact, Uncle George was the first white boy born in what is now the corporate limits of the village. His father was a carpenter and aided in the construction of the Paw Paw Mills, and the old Court House, but sometime in the early forties moved to the place five miles west of town now owned by Cora Morrell, and at that time owned by Epaphroditus Ransom, Van Buren County's first Circuit Judge. From there the Praters moved to a place in the woods, four and a half miles west of town on the Black River road in the year 1847, which for over seventy years has been known as the Prater homestead, and has been the home of five generations of this family.

The brothers and sisters were James, Susan, Mariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Giles, Julia, George, Sophia and Frances all but Julia living nearly all of their lives in this immediate vicinity.

The nephews and nieces to the third generation all loved "Uncle George and Aunt Lottie."

On April 14th, 1863 he was married to Charlotte M. Dunham and their wedded life of nearly fifty-six years has been a beautiful book to read. Their home has been one from which good has been constantly flowing. Uncle George became an active and earnest christian, when a young man and at the age of eighteen years was superintending a Sunday school. Always forward, never backward, always confident, never doubting. Love, patriotism, loyalty and truth were elements of his character always manifest. To him all nature was the handiwork of God and Christ's promises were a sure foundation. Death was but the portal to a life of endless joy.

When Gliddenburg Church was organized more than fifty years ago, he and his wife were charter members. He was chosen the first church clerk which office he held continuously until he moved to Paw Paw only a few years ago. The characters strengthened in that vicinity and the souls led into the kingdom have been in a great measure the result of his life and activity in that direction.

He was a minister of the gospel and had preached in all the Free Will Baptist Churches of the county, and when the matter of Union with the Regular Baptist seemed practical, he was one of its most earnest advocates, one of the first, as it were, to "clasp hands".

Made a Deacon in the Paw Paw church he was always in the front line of service. As a citizen he never occupied neutral ground. Quickly deciding which side was right, he advocated and defended it with all his might. The words of St. Paul to him most fitly applied. "He has fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith." Beloved by his fellow men, honored of God, he has simply stepped across the threshold to greet the dear ones who have preceded him and he turns to welcome those whom he knows will follow.

Wife sons and grand-children and their families have the sympathy of all in the separation from him who was dear to them.

IDELETTE TURNER LONGWELL

This community was heart broken on Wednesday morning to learn of the death of Mrs. George W. Longwell Jr. She had been sick for about two weeks, but her family and friends did not consider her illness of a serious nature. On Thursday prior to her death, she was much better and sat to the table with her family for dinner. On Friday she suffered a relapse, which quickly developed into pneumonia of a pronounced type, and her days were numbered. She passed away Tuesday night about nine o'clock.

Idelette Turner Longwell was the daughter of James T. and Aldah H. Turner and was born in Dayton, Ohio on April 11th, 1873. That city was her home up to the time of her marriage to George W. Longwell Jr. which occurred on November 28th, 1900, since which date Paw Paw has been her home. She is survived by her husband, and one son, Turner L. Longwell, a boy of ten years; one sister, Mrs. Katherine T. Cary of Chicago; and two brothers Joseph B. Turner of Detroit, and Robert H. Turner of Dayton, Ohio.

Mrs. Longwell was one of the exemplary women of this community. She was a grand neighbor, a loyal friend and an ideal wife and mother. She was always keenly active to the needs of those about her, and found much time in addition to her own home duties to devote to the relief and care of the sufferings and needs of others. During the time that the United States was at war, Mrs. Longwell worked unceasingly and untiringly in the various war activities, —Red Cross, Surgical Dressing, Liberty Loan, in fact any place her services were needed, there she was on duty. Nor did she stop when the Armistice was signed, but continued her faithful work at the Red Cross rooms in ministering to Influenza victims up to the time of her last illness. Much sympathy is expressed for the heart broken husband and young son, who have lost a devoted wife and a loving, faithful mother. The funeral will be held from the home this Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. In pursuance of regulations of the state board of health during the epidemic, the services will necessarily be of a private nature. The pall bearers will be, W. H. Longwell, Fred Longwell, Leland Warner, LaRue Chappell, George Longwell III, Glen A. Sanford. Interment will be in Prospect cemetery.